

Jury finds pair guilty in bigamy, bribery case

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Three years after they purportedly slunk off to a Tennessee feed store to be quietly married while he was weighing disciplinary sanctions against her, a Jefferson Circuit Court jury made it official yesterday:

In effect, it pronounced Greg Holmes and Dr. Diane Shafer husband and wife.

After deliberating for seven hours in one of Kentucky's more bizarre criminal trials, jurors found Holmes, a former hearing officer and assistant attorney general, guilty of bigamy for marrying Shafer and later taking a second wife, Kathryn Harmon, his secretary and aide.

They also found Shafer guilty of offering bribes, in the forms of cash and trips, and Holmes guilty of accepting them, in exchange for his recommendation that the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure drop charges that Shafer overprescribed narcotics, defrauded an insurance company and lied in depositions.

The jury of five men and seven women also convicted Holmes, who was fired from the attorney general's office last summer, of theft for

taking his state pay while traveling with Shafer to Bermuda, the Bahamas, Las Vegas and other locales.

Harmon, who assisted Holmes, who is blind, was convicted of theft for turning in most of Holmes' fraudulent time sheets.

The jury recommended a 13-year prison sentence for Holmes, five years for Shafer and one year for Harmon. Judge Geoffrey Morris, who scheduled sentencing for May 26, allowed them to remain free on bond on the condition that they stay in the continental United States.

With their felony convictions, Holmes and Shafer also are likely to lose their professional licenses.

Prosecutor Wes Faulkner told the jury that Holmes had violated his public trust and exploited three women: Shafer, Harmon and a partner with whom he allegedly had an affair while wed to the other two.

After the verdicts, Shafer said in an interview, "All they did was bash me, and the jury bought it." All three defendants indicated they would appeal.

Jurors said they had no choice but to convict Holmes in the face of a mountain of evidence that he trav-

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